

Town of Vernon
Hockanum River Linear Park Committee
Minutes – November 15, 2013

Present: Members: Ann Letendre, George Arthur, Ginny Gingras; Bruce Dinnie, Staff Advisor

The meeting was held at the Lottie Fisk Building, South St. and was called to order at 9:40 am by Chairman Ann Letendre.

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VERNON TOWN CLERK
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1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of September, 2013 meeting were approved. Motion by King, second by Arthur.

2. Old Business

A. Hockanum River Trail Reports

- a. Refer to Arthur and Bellingham reports (attached) for details

B. Review of needs – Hockanum River Parks and Parking Areas

- a. Refer to Arthur and Bellingham reports (attached).
 - Dart Hill South to Lyman – no further activity
 - Dart Hill North to WPCA – A fence section along Dart Hill Road was split; Bruce will have it replaced
 - Walgreen Corner – no further activity
 - Saxony Mill Park – no further activity
 - Paper Mill Pond – no further activity
 - West Main Street – no further activity
 - Phoenix St Dam – no further activity
 - Other Areas - none

C. Current Projects – Status

- a. Report – Friends HRLP Rec Trails Grant for Bridge and Boardwalk
 - Ann reported that Jay Silva of Silva Engineering visited the site. He determined that the bridge would be in the floodway; federal requirements will need to be met for bridge height and width. The bridge will need to be longer than expected. Cost estimates exceed available grant funds. Ann notified DEEP grant administrator, Laurie Giannotti. She will get back to us.
 - The Committee discussed ownership of the railbed beyond the bridge into Ellington. It has been understood that Family Stations owns the property to the side, but the Towns own the railbed. The Committee feels that property lines need to be verified with Family Stations so that there are no issues in the future. George will check into town records to verify Town ownership.
- b. RDA Design Committee – no new action. Ann noted that she has not had any further word on 19 Grove St action from Shaun Gately. Ann will contact Shaun to get an update, and to see if this area as well as the TKB area could be incorporated into the new plans for Rockville by a developer.

D. Potential Projects and New Grant Applications –

Blueways Trail: Parks & Rec is awaiting word of Rec. Trail grant awards. A committee of several volunteers, led by Jerry Kinsman, held two work days to clear a trail in the river for kayak or canoe travel from the WPCA to Dart Hill North.

E. River Protection: Actions, Public Education – No activity.

3. New Business –

- a. Congressman Larson's HRLP meeting: no new activity
- b. Ed Dresner memorial – Bruce will order a bench. A memorial dedication will be planned April 2014. Friends HRLP will provide \$500 towards the bench.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am, motion by George, second by Joe.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Letendre, Chairperson

GEORGE ARTHUR REPORT

September 27 to November 15, 2013

Worked 2 hours to clean the three signs at the WTP and cut back brush to improve the view and prepare for the Dresner bench.

Participated in a 3 hr river walk to inspect for tree work to be done in the river segment from WTP south to Dart Hill Rd. We will have a 4 hr workparty on Thursday Nov 14 on river trees behind CountryWood.

VERNON GREENWAYS VOLUNTEERS REPORT – Don Bellingham

September 27 to November 15, 2013

Cleanup of Hockanum River - October 11 and November 14

October 11 - Initial meeting to discuss removal of wood from the Hockanum River that is impeding canoe/kayak traffic. Attendees: Jerry Kinsman, Bruce Dinnie, Don Bellingham and Joe King. Jerry is leading this project.

November 14 - First of two scheduled work parties lead by Jerry Kinsman.

Annual VGV picnic at Camp Newhoca provided by Parks and Rec - October 16

Thirty-one people attended. After the meal Bruce Dinnie did opening remarks and Don Bellingham provided a summary of what was accomplished in 2013 by the VGVs.

Facebook Page - November 8 and 9

November 8 - Michelle Gentes took over the facebook page and we had a meeting to discuss how to keep it relevant during the off-season.

November 9 - Don did a tour of the Dart Hill South Stone Dust Trail taking pictures and interviewing trail users for publication on facebook.